



Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax Hwnic Giligagge

CHICKALOON NATIVE VILLAGE NEWS

Ugheli Satggan—Good Morning

Ugheli Dzaen—Good Day

Ugheli Xelts'e'—Good Evening

Place Names in Ahtna

Indigenous Peoples have been living and stewarding the sacred places throughout Alaska since time immemorial. Every place, be it a body of water or a specific land formation, already has an Indigenous name. It's time we recognize the original names used by our ancestors. Let's start including the original Ahtna place names when talking about land formations in this area. Highway signs and maps should list the Indigenous name(s) and the language used in that area.

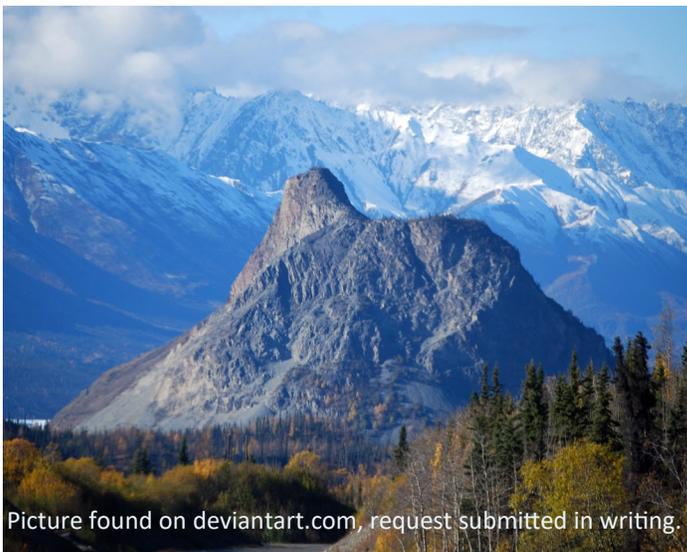
In the ArcNews, Winter 2021 edition, Dr Kelsey Leonard states, "As Indigenous communities face an epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the continued use of derogatory terms ... condition the world to see Indigenous female bodies as inherently violable. And when place-names [with derogatory terms] are captured in maps, they further socialize



Picture by Shelia Olson

the public to believe in myths such as the 'vanishing Indian,' which purports that Indigenous Peoples have disappeared, and to keep promoting colonial philosophies like the Doctrine of Discovery, which, for centuries, has justified the seizure of Indigenous lands."

A solution Dr. Leonard discusses is using GIS Mapping that includes Indigenous names. "We need maps by Indigenous Peoples, for Indigenous Peoples. ... Moreover, existing GIS ecosystems need to be designed in ways that support Indigenous data sovereignty and visibility—for the benefit of all. Indigenous Peoples need everyone to commit to the difficult work of decolonizing our GIS practices so we can create a world full of mapmakers, data scientists, and policy makers who are also data CARE-givers."



Picture found on deviantart.com, request submitted in writing.

Excerpts with written permission from Dr. Leonard. The full article can be found at <https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcnews/putting-indigenous-place-names-and-languages-back-on-maps/>

Here are a couple of local landmarks. The top photo is **Tnel'aay**—"The One That Watches Us" aka Pioneer Peak. Discussed in Shem Pete's Alaska, 2nd Edition, page 314. Photo to the left is **Natsede'aay Na'**—"Rock that is Standing" aka Glacier Point. Discussed on page 307, Shem Pete's Alaska, 2nd Edition.

Ask your Elder to share the stories and learn more about these and other places you live or may visit.

Council Member & Elder Spotlight—Chief Gary Harrison

Chief Gary Harrison is the Traditional Chief for Chickaloon Native Village and Chairman of the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council. He was elected to the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council in 1984 and named Traditional Chief in 1994 by the Elders.

Chief Gary is a lifelong activist and proponent for protecting Tribal governance sovereignty, self-determination, human rights, and the environment. He is an active leader for not only Tribal Citizens of Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax, but also Indigenous Peoples everywhere serving on many committees, worldwide.

Chief Gary is on the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Board representing the Unaffiliated Tribes, the Benteh Nuutah Clinic Advisory Board, Life House Clinic Advisory Board, a two-time Chairman and representative on the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat Board, and is a co-founder and one of six Indigenous entities on the Arctic Council on the Arctic Athabaskan Council.

Previously, Chief Gary helped established a government-to-government relationship between Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson and Chickaloon Native Village, served on the Palmer Development Council, was involved in the locations of Benteh Nuutah and Life House Clinics and relocations of Mat-Su Regional Hospital and Mat-Su Borough School District Administration Offices.

Additionally, Chief Gary served on the Cook Inlet Tribal Council, US Department of Justice Tribal Justice Advisory Group, Sovereignty Network, United Tribes of Alaska, Indigenous Environmental Network, US Review of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and has participated on the Forum on Indigenous Issues, was involved in the Committee on Fisheries at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, participated at both the Paris and Marrakesh Climate Accords, contributed to drafting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and presented written testimony to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

According to Chief Gary, “We need to educate all (Indigenous and non-Indigenous People) about decolonization.”

Lisa Wade stated, “Chief Gary cares for the Elders, our children, and our peoples. He has been a champion for the Ya Ne Dah Ah School since 1992. I don't have all the words to express my gratitude for all he has done for the school and our Chickaloon family. I offer my gratitude, respect, and love.”



2006 speaking before the Arctic Council Ministers

Upcoming Webinar—May 13 8:00 AM Alaska Time—Keeping Kinships, Remembering Futures: Indigenous Peoples Protecting Wild Salmon in Alaska

from <https://www.umass.edu/resistancestudies/events/keeping-kinships-re-membering-futures-indigenous-peoples-protecting-wild-salmon-alaska-talk-0>



Carol Kalafatic, (Quechua, Spanish, and Croatian) a Resistance Studies Fellow and Chief Gary Harrison will speak as the last component of the Resistance Studies Initiative series of webinars from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Globally, many Indigenous Peoples' food sovereignty initiatives focus on the revitalization of their traditional food systems. Several initiatives include the protection of fish and their habitats against over-fishing, environmental degradation, and the climate crisis.

This webinar will discuss some Alaska Native (especially Ahtna Athabaskan) initiatives to protect wild salmon as a culturally important being and a biological keystone species. It will also summarize the on-going social and political challenges that Alaska Native Peoples face in asserting their self-determination within their territories, where salmon find some of their last remaining pristine habitats.

To attend, please go to the following website and register for the zoom meeting.

https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uIWJmvs1SsCecnaKsOB61A



Earth Day

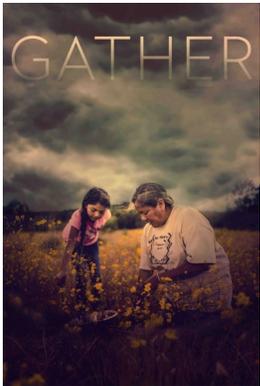
Earth Day 2021 Celebrated April 22-25 by National Museum of the American Indian from <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

Youth in Action: Sustainable Agriculture on demand This panel discussion brings together young Indigenous leaders to address the role that traditional ecological knowledge plays in their work as farmers and entrepreneurs. With the onset of COVID-19 and the ever-pressing issues of climate change, investing in sustainable agriculture and food production is more important than ever. Moderated by Michaela Pavlat (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). Panelists include Kelsey Ducheneaux-Scott (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe), Jack Pashano (Hopi) and Marco Ovando (Shoshone -Paiute Tribe).

Cooking Demonstration on demand Mariah Gladstone (Blackfeet/Cherokee Nation), founder of Indigikitchen, an online cooking platform, will explore traditional Indigenous foods and show how to incorporate them into people's everyday lives.

Building an Agriculture Business in Indian Country on demand Experts address a crucial issue of creating innovative, robust and ecologically sound food systems and agricultural businesses in Indigenous communities. Speakers include Dawn Sherman (Lakota/Lenape/Shawnee), CEO of Native American Natural Foods; Mark N. Fox, chairman, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; and Leonard Forsman, chairman, Suquamish Tribe. Moderated by Carmen Davis (Makah/Chippewa-Cree/Yakama), editor of *Native Business* magazine.

Film Screenings on demand



Gather (USA, 2020, 74 min.) Director: Sanjay Rawal, Producer: Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Creek) *Gather* is an intimate portrait of the growing movement amongst Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political and cultural identities through food sovereignty, while battling the trauma of centuries of genocide.

Voices from the Barrens: Native People, Blueberries and Sovereignty (USA, 2020, 56 min.) Director: Nancy Ghertner, Canadian Director: Brian J. Francis (Mi'kmaq) This film documents the wild blueberry harvest of the Wabanaki, who live in the United States and Canada.



Crow Country: The Right to Food Sovereignty (USA, 2020, 21 min.) Director: Tsanavi Spoonhunter (Northern Arapaho/Northern Paiute) *Crow Country* follows several tribal members who are fighting for better food and a better future for their community.

One Word Sawalmem (USA, 2019, 18 min.) Directors: Natasha Deganello Giraudie, Michael "Pom" Preston (Winnemem Wintu) A rare look into the life of Native wisdom keepers, men and women respected within Indigenous communities for their intimate knowledge about living in balance with the natural world.



Guardianes de semilla (Guardians of the Seeds) (Colombia, 2020, 8 min.) Director: Mauricio Telpiz Four Pastos community members known as guardians of the ancestral seeds showcase traditional rituals.



Pillow available at [realsimple.com](https://www.realsimple.com)

Snakaey Delghaas By Duc Ngo, High School Teacher



Ugheli Dzaen.
Nts'e doht'ae?
Gistaani na'aaye' et
konst'aghi na'aaye' (the
sixth and seventh month
of winter - February and
March) were eventful
for the Ya Ne Dah Ah



School. Our snakaey (students) were quite excited to continue their education in person. Some of the highlights during these past two months included cross-country skiing, sledding, salmon skin tanning, and tool making for the moose hide tanning project for high school students. Snakaey delghaas (the children had fun). Students and staff enjoyed a sunny day at Beq'e Nay'uni (the Government Peak Recreational Area) cross-country skiing. While our snakaey ggaay (littles) enjoyed sledding.

Tool Making with Ben Meyer



Łuk'ae C'ezes Skesaxde'



We were lucky enough to have Ben Meyer come and help our high school snakaey make deniigi c'ezes (moose hide) scraping tools for the moose hide tanning project. We are also excited to work on our Łuk'ae C'ezes Skesaxde' (Let's



Tan Salmon Skin Project). The picture above shows Dillon worked hard to scrape off the meat from the skin. This was our step taade (three): Xona c'ezes gha itsiy. (Scrape the skin and flesh with a spoon or knife.)

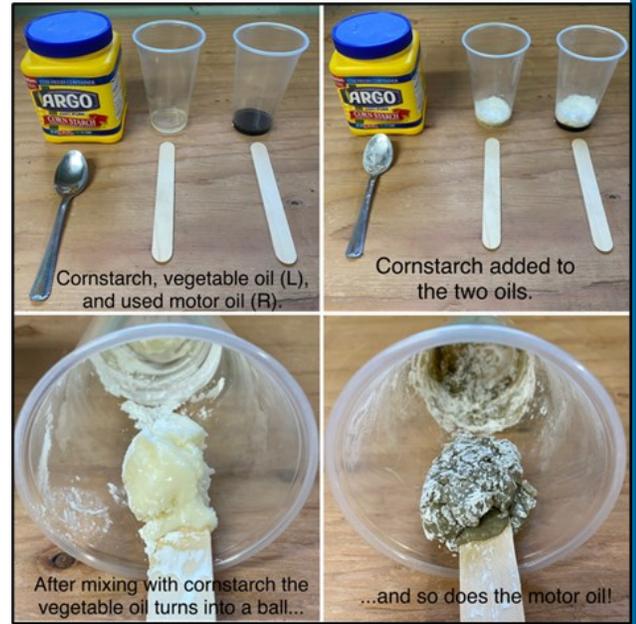
Big shoutout to our high school snakaey - Dillon and Hayden - for displaying one of our Ahtna values Ugheldze' baninic'ezet (think good thoughts). They were always ready to help out the younger students whenever they needed help during our ski sessions.

Let's Talk About: Tlagh (oil) By Richard Chiolero, the Tribal Response Program Coordinator

It's a pantry staple: oil (*tlagh*). We fry our food with it. We use it in our salad dressings. Many of us have several different types to choose from in our pantries: vegetable oil, sesame oil, and olive oil to name a few. Did you know that "oil" is actually a family of chemicals? And just like human family members, chemicals in the same family pretty much look and act similarly to each other.

The oil we put in our engines has similar properties to the oil we put on our food. If your frying pan gets too hot, cooking oil will start to smoke just like if your engine overheats the engine oil inside will start to smoke. We can use lamp oil to give us light, but in a pinch, we can also use olive oil because both will burn. Grease is a form of oil that's solid at room temperature. If you have a squeaky door hinge you can spray it with WD-40, but Crisco will work if you're desperate.

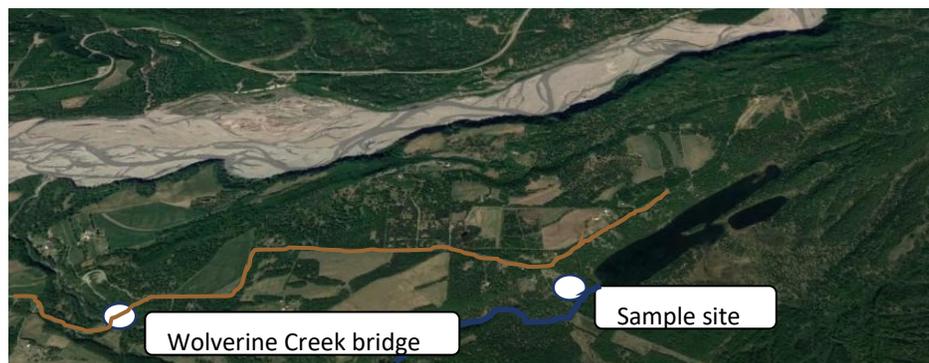
It turns out that having similar properties is a good thing because, well, have you ever spilled oil across your counter or floor? What a mess! Let me let you in on a little secret for the next time it happens to you: cornstarch. You can sprinkle cornstarch on spilled oil to absorb it. Let it rest a few minutes and then you should be able to scrape it into a ball and dispose of it. Then you can use warm, soapy water to clean up the residue left behind. You might think that I was talking about kitchen oil, but **this trick works on motor oil**, too! A note about disposal: if you're getting rid of cooking oil and cornstarch, you can just put it in the trash. If you're getting rid of used motor oil and cornstarch, please put it in a container and take it here: MSB Hazardous Waste Facility, 1201 N 49th State St., Palmer, AK 99645, 907.861.7604 They accept used oil waste (and many other waste chemicals) on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Call ahead to make sure they're open. (<https://matsugov.us/document/hazardous-waste-facility-brochure>)



Stinky Streams By Kendra Zamzow, Environmental Stewardship Project Manager



One of the streams we monitor is the outlet of Wolverine Lake. Coho salmon, sock-eye salmon, and rainbow trout use the stream, and rainbow trout spawn just downstream of our sample site (as shown in the aerial map below).



When I visited in January and February, ****WHEW**** I could smell it for quite a while before I got to it! The measurements showed very low dissolved oxygen levels. Usually, this goes UP in the winter, as cold water holds more oxygen, but at this site it went DOWN. Fish streams should have oxygen concentrations of 7 mg/L or more, but it was only about 3 mg/L. What is causing the smell and the low oxygen in winter? It might be a natural type of bacteria in the sediment that thrive without oxygen and in very slow-moving waters. Is there a sulfide mineral lick nearby? If you have any thoughts about this, please contact me at klzamzow@chickaloon-nsn.gov.

Affordable Rental Housing Vacancies

*Income Based Affordable Rental Rates *Must be Alaska Native/American Indian

3-Bedroom/Single-Family Housing units are located in Sutton, Alaska (12 miles from Palmer). Housing Application is required to determine eligibility for each family requesting housing placement. Income based rental rates. The tenant is responsible for utilities. No pets. First month's rent and security deposit are required at time of lease. Applications are on our website: www.chickaloon-nsn.gov. For more information, please contact Samantha Ange, Facilities and Housing Director, at (907) 745-0749, or you can email smange@chickaloon-nsn.gov.



Veterans Affairs Native American Direct Loan Program Information

By Chief Gary Harrison

In a letter received by CNV on March 23, 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded their VA-guaranteed home loans to include eligible Native Americans who wish to purchase, construct, or improve a home on Federal Trust land. These loans will be no-down payment in most cases, low-interest, regardless of loan amount; 30-year fixed home loan; have limited closing costs; include a reusable benefit on future buying, building, or improving home; could refinance a current NADL at a reduced rate; or allow for the ability to borrow up to a Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac conforming loan limit.

To qualify—The Tribe must be federally recognized and the Veteran or Veteran's spouse must be recognized as Native American subject to the jurisdiction of the Tribe. To apply—The Tribe must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VA and provide copies of the lease to be used on Tribal trust land and copies of the Tribal Foreclosure Ordinances. The applicant must have—a valid VA home loan Certificate of Eligibility (COE), meet the credit standards, have proof of sufficient income to cover mortgage payments and additional home ownership costs, and applicant will live in the home that the NADL will buy, build or improve.

For further information, from the following website, <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-types/native-american-direct-loan/>. This website has links to the VA home loan Certificate of Eligibility, the regional loan center in each state and other links. You may also contact Casandra Kelting by phone at 877-827-3702, option 2 or by email lgyemial@va.gov.

Update on Alaska Native Vietnam-Era Veterans Allotment Program of 2019

There are 160 acres of federal land in Alaska available to veterans, or the families of deceased veterans, that have not previously received an allotment and served in the armed forces between August 5, 1964 and December 31, 1971. The application period is set to run for five years until December 29, 2025.

To date, the Veterans Allotment Program has received only 40 complete applications since the selection period opened on December 28, 2020. According to BLM estimates in February, there are approximately 690 eligible individuals that do not have an updated mailing address with the BIA or BLM.

If you think you may be eligible, or believe a loved one to be eligible, and have not yet received an eligibility letter from the BLM, please reach out to the BIA or BLM to confirm eligibility and update your mailing address: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/land-transfer/ak-native-allotment-act/alaska-native-vietnam-veterans-land-allotment>.

Visit AlaskaLawHelp for information on the probate process/complete forms needed to be appointed as a Personal Representative: <https://alaskalawhelp.org/issues/native-american-issues/veterans-allotment-program>.

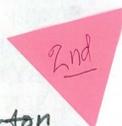
Valentine's Day Elder's Coloring Contest Winners



Marie Oleson



Dolly



Norton



Norman Oleson



Staff Member Spotlight— Dorothy Boatright, Elder's Lunch & Administrative Assistant

Dorothy was born in Palmer, AK at the Quonset hut hospital.

Her immediate family members are: parents, Harry & Theodora Campbell; brothers, Harry Jr & Wayne (adopted from Nome at 3 days old); daughters, Amber, Heidi, and Gina; sons, Matthew, Tait, and Michael; 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren with another due to arrive in May.

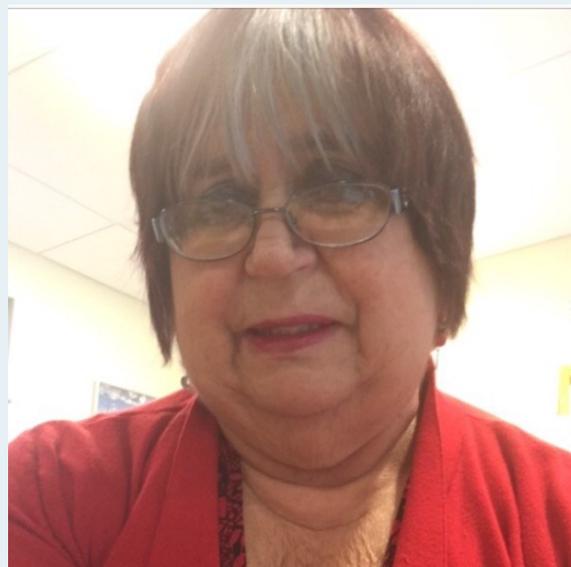
Several fun facts about Dorothy are: she is of Greek descent, her grandfather was Vassos Kanellos a dancer/actor and an artist with a couple of his paintings hanging in the Smithsonian Institute. Dorothy graduated from Palmer High School (the PJMS building) in 1963. She worked as a clerk for Dorothy Saxton, State Magistrate, right out of high school. She also worked at MEA in the billing dept, for 30 years as a seasonal worker for the AK State Fair in the Marketing and Events dept, and at the Palmer City Hall for 10 years in the payroll, utility billing, and property assessment depts.

Interesting fact that Dorothy wanted to share: while working for the City of Palmer, she was a 3-pack-a-day chain smoker in an office full of smokers. She quit cold turkey 40 years ago.

Her life passion is ART. She is a self-taught artist. Dorothy loves working with pen & ink, charcoal, and watercolor mediums. Her favorite models are birds and animals. She has painted various pieces and provided to the Elders and as fund raiser prizes for the Ya Ne Dah Ah School over the years. Dorothy provides art opportunities each month in the Elder's lunches and we get to see the contest winners.

Dorothy's life goal is: to continue to give to those in need. **Her bucket list item is:** to learn how to swim since she can't even tread water and is deathly afraid of driving anywhere bodies of water are alongside the road. Standing on a bridge causes her severe vertigo. **Dorothy's hero is:** her mom, who suffered from cancer for many years and taught Dorothy to appreciate what she has and to always have a positive outlook no matter how difficult the circumstances. Dorothy wakes up every morning and tells herself, "Today is going to be the best day of my life!"

Dorothy has been with CVTC since 2009. She enjoys working in the Health and Social Services dept as a food coordinator assistant and an older Indian nutrition education specialist. "I enjoy serving people and learning the culture." She plans to retire before she turns 100 and in the meantime she keeps busy with artsy stuff and enjoying spending time with family when she can.





MAT-SU RECOVERY SERVICES

Providing outpatient substance-use treatment services in the Valley

Lakeview Professional Building
851 E Westpoint Drive, Suite 310, Wasilla

Hours: Mon. - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Main: (907) 357-5400

Fax: (907) 357-5477

OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES:

- **Substance use assessments**
(all include referral and case management services)
- **Outpatient/intensive outpatient services**
(including intensive case management, individual sessions, weekly clinical groups, weekly peer and family support groups, alumni support, 24-hour peer support, and behavioral services)

Individualized peer case management:

- Peer case-management support
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) education group
- Bridge Device placement, supportive services & provider referrals
- Prevention workshops
- Grant-based financial assistance *
- Connections to community support meetings

Common community referrals:

- Office of Children Services (OCS)
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) services
- Tribal Supportive Services
- Re-entry services (DOC)
- Employment and training
- TANF, Office of Public Assistance
- Housing resources, including Valley-based sober living
- Transportation assistance
- Behavioral health services

** eligibility required*



Mat-Su Recovery Services is staffed with people who have shared lived experience and know the freedom that sobriety brings. *It's never too late to change your story.*

St Patrick's Day Elder's Coloring Contest



Justice Department

Spring Safety Checklist—from website <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/spring-safety/spring-safety-tips>

Smoke Alarms/Carbon Monoxide Detectors—Three out of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Anything that burns fuel can potentially become a source of carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill. Test your smoke alarms every month and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a "chirping" sound, replace the battery immediately. Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom and in the common areas on each floor of a home. Mount them at least 10 feet from the stove to reduce false alarms, less than 12 inches from the ceiling and away from windows, doors and ducts. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each bedroom and on every level of the home. Smoke alarms and CO alarms can be interconnected wirelessly. That means, when one sounds, they all sound. Be sure to purchase smoke alarms with the label of a reputable testing agency, like Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Also, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove, furnace) are free/clear of snow or debris.

Family Emergency Plan—The National Safety Council recommends every family have an emergency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Spring is a great time to review that plan with family members. Have a home and car emergency kit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says an emergency kit should include one gallon of water per day for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, and medicines. Visit the FEMA website for a complete list. The emergency plan also should include: (1) A communications plan to outline how your family members will contact one another and where to meet if it's safe to go outside, (2) A shelter-in-place plan if outside air is contaminated; FEMA recommends sealing windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting, (3) A getaway plan including various routes and destinations in different directions. Update your first aid kit.

Get Rid of Unwanted Medicines—NSC recommends you take unwanted or expired medicines to a prescription drop box or take-back event near you. NSC offers free Stericycle Seal & Send envelopes, so you can send your unwanted medication to be safely destroyed.

Getting the Urge to Clean? With the warm weather comes a desire to shine and polish your home. But when warning labels are ignored or chemicals fall into the wrong hands, disaster can occur. Learn what you can do to keep you family safe around poisons in the home.

Window Safety—With warmer temperatures arriving, it's important to practice window safety – especially in homes with young children. Windows are one of the major safety hazards in the home.



Alaska Legal Services Corporation Elder Law and Family Caregiver Programs

- ALSC provides civil legal assistance to elders and caregivers at each of our offices statewide: Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, and Utqiagvik (Barrow)
- Services include legal representation, legal advice/counseling, and outreach
- Focused on elders and caregivers with the greatest economic and social need
- We also have information, forms, and online “classes” for elders and caregivers on our website www.alaskalawhelp.org
- To apply for services, contact the ALSC office closest to you, find our contact information at www.alsc-law.org

Elder Law Project

- Helping older Alaskans maintaining their quality of life in a safe environment, in the community of their choice
- Areas of law include advance planning, public benefits, healthcare, family law, Medicaid qualifying income trusts (Miller Trusts), housing, debt/consumer law, and more!

Family Caregiver Support Project

- Helping family caregivers maintain optimum health and wellbeing to continue to provide care for their loved ones in the home for as long as possible
- Areas of law include advance planning, public benefits, health care, Medicaid qualifying income trusts (Miller Trusts), housing, debt/consumer law, guardianships and conservatorships, family law, and more!
- This project serves:
 - Family or unpaid caregivers who are providing care for an elder, or to an individual of any age with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, or related disorders
 - Grandparents and older relatives caring for minor children

Transportation Department

New CATS Vehicle By Louis Friend, Transit Coordinator/Emergency Planner

On March 22, 2021, Chickaloon Area Transit System purchased a 2021 Ford Transit All wheel drive van through a Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grant. The van has seating for 11 plus the driver and space in the back for other items such as grocers, mobility aids (not Wheelchairs), car seats, and similar items. This van sets just low enough to make an entry for all ages much more pleasant. CATs drivers have already observed the full-length running board should be a great benefit to access and egress the van.

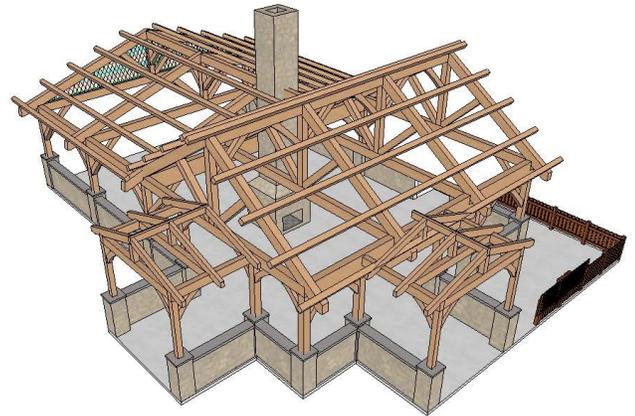


The ride will be smooth, enjoyable, and relaxing. There is AC & heat throughout the cabin so no one is left uncomfortable during their ride. Riders will notice USB ports in various locations in the cabin to plug in their cell phones. The one over-the-top feature is the automatic door into the passenger's cabin. This feature will allow drivers and passengers to keep social distancing while adding ease of entry and exit for our riders.

Construction on New Pavilion to Begin Soon

By Brian Winnestaffer, Transportation Department Director

Notice of Request for Proposals—CNV is building a visitor center pavilion this summer and is soliciting bids for the concrete foundation and timber frame construction. (potential picture included to provide a rough guide of the structure prior to a roof being installed)



If you are interested, please email Brian Winnestaffer at bewinnestaffer@chickaloon-nsn.gov to be placed on the RFP info list. Information will be shared when available.

In Other News

Congratulations to the new Interior Secretary, Deb Haaland, the First Native American Cabinet Secretary



The Interior Department is responsible for the well-being of the 1.9 million Native People, 500 million acres of public land, federal waters off the US coastline, dams and reservoirs in the Western US, and protection of thousands of endangered species. Deb Haaland was confirmed as the Interior Secretary on March 15, 2021.

Secretary Haaland stated on Twitter, “A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior. ... I’ll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land.”

The picture is from <https://www.vogue.com/article/deb-haaland-swearing-in-ceremony-indigenous-design>

Chief Gary Harrison wanted to share the following letter. Copies can be obtained from the Justice Department.

September 8, 2013

Human Rights Committee Secretariat
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Attention: Kate Fox/Sindu Thodiyil

To: The Members of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, 109th session
Re: Review of the 4th Periodic Report of the United States

I am writing on behalf of the Peoples of the Chickaloon Village of the Athabaskan Nation as their Traditional Chief. My role as an Indigenous Leader is to ensure the full and complete enjoyment of human rights for everyone in our community.

The Taking of Alaska & Article 1 of the ICCPR

Questions for the United States from the Committee:

1. *Where did the United States get the Title to Alaska?*
2. *When are they going to reinstate Alaska to the decolonization list?*

This report is submitted pursuant to Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), further to the upcoming review of the United States by the Human Rights Committee and the Fourth Periodic Report of the United States under the ICCPR.

This report explains why the United States did not purchase Alaska nor have the right to use plenary power to carry out assumed and continued domination of Alaska.

I am also writing this report to request that the Committee recommend that Alaska be re-instated on the decolonization list so as to facilitate commencement of the decolonization process in Alaska as originally intended under Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

In 1787, the United States Constitution was ratified, and Article VI (2) states as follows:

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof, and **all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land;** and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding (emphasis added)¹

In September of 1821, the Russian government established special maritime rules limited navigation in the ocean around the Aleutian Islands and the Alaskan mainland coastal waters. These rules implied a claim of sovereignty over Alaska by the Russian government.² The

¹ U.S. Const. art. 6, §2

² Senate Document No. 152, 81st Congress 2nd Session 1950, Library of Congress, at page 7 para. 5

governments of the United States and Great Britain immediately protested these rules.³ The Russian government deliberately refrained from making any claim based on the Doctrine of Discovery. Russia had not discovered nor had they conquered Alaska – in fact, the Russian forts were burned on mainland Alaska, including those in Nulato, Kustatan and Kenai.⁴ An important historical document from this time, the Kostlivtsov Memorandum, stated: “the need for the protection of the Inhabitants of Alaska because spoilers would take their possessions and depredatory working out of the riches as well on the surface and as in the womb of the earth. To civilize the savages offer them material comforts, luxury and religion.”⁵

Article VI of the 1867 Treaty of Cession stated that Russia was only selling what interest it had in Alaska. All they had was a monopoly for trade with the other countries – the Indigenous Peoples did not sign a treaty or make any similar agreement related to land.⁶

At some point, the US inquired of the Russian Government as to just what the US had purchased from them in the Treaty of Cession. The Russian response was that the Kostlivtsov Memorandum was descriptive of what had been purchased and sold under the Treaty of Cession. It said that Russia did not own Alaska, but that they owned a fort on Kodiak and a fort at Sitka, with a few redoubts and various temporary trading posts on the mainland.

The US became the “spoilers”!

The Treaty of Cession was NOT made with the Indigenous Peoples of this land!

The Matanuska-Susitna Valley in Alaska is part of the original homeland of the Ahtna Athabascan Indians. It was first explored by Russians in 1818. In 1935 as a part of the “New Deal” (a series of US domestic economic programs), 200 families from the US mid-west travelled to Alaska, comprising the first settlers of the Matanuska Valley Colony. The City of Palmer, Alaska was established on the homeland of Athabascan Indians. In 1880 a trading station was built and the area was subsequently settled by gold miners in 1913.⁷

Alaska is, and historically has been, a source of immense wealth for the United States. Resources such as fur, gold, silver and other extractives have been the main revenue generators over the decades.

During World War I, coal was extracted to fuel the Pacific Fleet. That was when the US Navy came to Alaska. Their arrival brought crime, alcohol, disease, devastating environmental damage and destruction (including the decimation of salmon, caribou and sheep) which impacted my Peoples in Chickaloon, and forever changed our ways of life.

At the end of World War II in 1945, the United Nations was established with the United States being amongst the first to ratify the UN Charter. In fact, the United States took a leading role in

³ Id., page 8 para.1

⁴ Id., page 8 para.3

⁵ Appendix 3 of Senate Document No.152, Translation of Russian Memorandum marked A.A. by B.N. Buynitsky, second to last para.

⁶ Treaty of Cession, 1867 (15 Stat.539) Article VI

⁷ Basic historical facts, which may be found in numerous historical and academic texts, and is also available on Wikipedia, accessed online (09-8-13 at <http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska>)

the creation, structure and development of the United Nations. The Charter of the United Nations established in Chapter XI (Articles 73 and 74) the principles that continue to guide United Nations decolonization efforts, including respect for self-determination of all peoples.

The United Nations Charter also established the International Trusteeship System in Chapter XII (articles 75-85) and the Trusteeship Council in Chapter XIII (articles 86-91) to monitor certain Territories, known as “Trust” Territories.⁸ As a charter member, the United States was to decolonize their claimed territories. Alaska and Hawaii were both on the list of the “Trust” Territories, neither was annexed in accordance with the UN Charter, now internationally established law.

In this submission, I will speak to Alaska exclusively. The UN Charter under Chapter XI (article 73) lays out the sacred trust and the obligation to promote to the utmost: the well-being of inhabitants; culture; and to the peoples concerned, their political, economic social and educational advancement; just treatment; and protection against abuses.

To date, none of this has been accomplished.

In 1959, there was a vote taken for Alaska statehood. The Indigenous Peoples were prohibited from voting by law. That law required that in order to vote, the individual concerned had to speak and write in the English language. There was an additional (reprehensible) requirement that five (5) white people verified through documentation, that the individual was “competent” to vote.⁹ Statehood was the only thing that was on the ballot. There was no option to vote for free association, independence, nor commonwealth – these options should have been on the ballot. The military was at this time, and unfortunately continues to be, allowed to vote in local elections in Alaska even though they are mostly residents from other claimed states or countries.¹⁰ Throughout this period, the US did not provide any reporting on decolonization processes – they simply sent communication declaring that the conversion of Alaska to “statehood” under the United States was a fulfillment of the requirements set out in the UN Charter under Chapter XI (article 73).

A decade later, the *Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act* (ANCSA) of 1971 was passed. The language used in the text of this legislation had the intent of destroying the true legal and political identities of the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska. Two examples of the tools to accomplish this was the “corporatization” of Indigenous communities, and the forcible taking or transfer of Indigenous children away from such communities. Both of these actions taken by the US

⁸ See the following link to the list of Trust Territories, which include Alaska:
<http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/nonselfgov.shtml>

⁹ “In the early years of the twentieth century, the burgeoning Alaska Territory passed laws limiting the ability of Alaska Natives to be citizens, to participate in the political process, and to enter certain public establishments. In 1924, when the U.S. Congress conferred citizenship on “all noncitizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States,” the Territorial Legislature responded by enacting a literacy law the next year requiring that “voters in territorial elections be able to read and write the English language.” Alaska’s Constitution, which became operative with the Formal Declaration of Statehood on January 3, 1959, also included an English literacy requirement as a qualification for voting which was not repealed until 1970.” SEE: Natalie Landreth and Moira Smith, “Alaska Voting Rights” (March 2006) accessed online at: www.protectcivilrights.org

¹⁰ R.W. Wade – Personal oral account of non-native uncle and Ernest Gruening, “The Gruening of Alaska”, 1974.

Government qualify as a “genocidal act” under Article II of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* (adopted by Resolution 260 [III] A of the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1948) and the United States *Genocide Convention Implementation Act*.¹¹

Now I am witness to corporations attempting to assert, exercise and have recognized the same rights as Indigenous Peoples, except without all the responsibilities that ought to accompany those rights. There is a blatant disregard of the sacred trust that the US agreed to abide by under the United Nations Charter Chapter XI Article 73 – in so doing, they are disregarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples. US and Alaska laws deprive Indigenous Peoples of their subsistence rights under the United Nations *Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. For instance: on fishing, the subsistence rights come after the commercial and sports fishing and the subsistence rights should be FIRST. Mining, oil & gas exploration and development are first priority above subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering and it should be the other way around.

Meanwhile, the non-renewable resources continue to be plundered, to the detriment of the environment, traditional food and waters. Foreign and so-called domestic corporations are extracting these resources from the surface waters like streams, groundwater in aquifers, and other extractions from our lands, hills, mountains and valleys – defiling waters as they go and endangering the communities’ source(s) of drinking water. “Spoilators” are digging into the womb of Mother Earth.

I look forward to Alaska being re-instated on the decolonization list so the United States can uphold its true sacred trust as originally intended under Chapter 11 Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations and with this action it can fulfill Article 1 of the ICCPR. The United States can then stop the use of Plenary power doctrine to deprive the Indigenous peoples of their Human Rights, responsibilities and resources, be they social, cultural or physical (i.e., land, water, air, fish and other animals, etc.).

¹¹ The Proxmire Act is contained in Chapter 50A of the US Law Code Title 18 (Crimes and Criminal Procedure), Part I (Crimes). Section 1091 deals specifically with Genocide. The law implements the *United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* in the United States.

SEASONS IN AHTNA

SPRING—DAAN'



SUMMER—SAEN



FALL—NAHLUU



Photos from the following:
Spring—flickr.com
Summer—avisalaska.com
Fall—Ian Esk Mercurieff
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WINTER—XAY



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Ahtna Land Acknowledgments

Danse nene' ghestnaa eł izdaa
"I live and work in the land of the Cook Inlet"

Ts'tonhna' nene' ghestnaa eł izdaa.
"I live and work on Matanuska River land"